

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 112

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kemmons Wilson for his distinguished career in the field of hospitality and tourism and his outstanding contributions to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as renown business leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Kemmons Wilson, the founder of one of Tennessee's most famous home-grown companies, Holiday Inn, is most assuredly one such citizen who is richly deserving of this body's praise; and

WHEREAS, according to business lore, while on vacation with his family in 1951, Kemmons Wilson was dissatisfied with the prices and quality of lodging available for his family; a visionary man, he realized there was an unfulfilled need in the travel industry and sought to fill that void, building his first Holiday Inn in 1952 on Summer Avenue, one of the main approach roads in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, an astute businessman and leader, Kemmons Wilson's one Holiday Inn has grown into an international business which has revolutionized family travel accommodations around the globe; and

WHEREAS, a true visionary, Mr. Wilson's historic contributions to the tourism and hospitality industry throughout his career are unsurpassed and culminated with his announcement of his "final deal" – the opening of the Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality and Resort Management at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance and economic impact of tourism and the hospitality industry in Tennessee and the importance of preparing our future leaders through education, Kemmons Wilson made a personal financial commitment to the future as his

generous donation of approximately \$15 million – the value of the building - became the largest single gift by a donor to the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, today this renowned facility is a public-private partnership that thrives with hundreds of students enjoying quality instruction in hospitality management education, receiving industry-focused learning experiences, and the opportunity to participate in a state-wide program of mentoring and instruction; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the international business community, Kemmons Wilson has received numerous awards and honors including, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement in 1965, the National Image Award from the Real Estate Board of Memphis in 1966, the Master of Free Enterprise Achievement Award for Junior Achievement in 1968, the Horatio Alger Award from the Horatio Alger Association in 1970, the Businessman of the Year from the Religious Heritage of America in 1970, the National Human Relations Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1972, the Entrepreneur Award from the International Franchise Association in 1982, the International Achievement Award from the World Trade Club of San Francisco in 1984, the International Executive of the Year from Sales and Marketing Executives International in 1985, Outstanding Business Leader Award from Northwood Institute in 1985, the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Memphis Civitan Club of Civitan International in 1992, the Cook Halle Award from Carnival Memphis in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from UCLA Extension's Hotel Industry Investment Conference in 1997, the America's Free Enterprise Living Legend Award from Students in Free Enterprise in 1997, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Pennsylvania State University in 1998, the Academy of Achievement from Sales and Marketing Executives International in 1999, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Memphis Area Home Builders Association in 2001, and the Man of the Year Award from the Memphis AL Chymia Shriners in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Kemmons Wilson was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the American Motel Magazine in 1961, the Hospitality Magazine in 1961, the American Society of Travel Agents in 1975, and the International Franchise Association in 1989; he was also inducted into the

National Business Hall of Fame for Fortune Magazine/Junior Achievement in 1982, the Memphis Business Hall of Fame for the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce in 1984, the Hall of Leaders for the Travel Industry Association in 1991, the Entrepreneurial Hall of Honor for the Pink Palace Museum in 1992, the Hospitality Industry Hall of Honor for the University of Houston in 1996, the Building Industry of Tennessee Hall of Fame for the Home Builders Association of Tennessee in 1997, and Hospitality Hall of Fame for Pennsylvania State University in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Kemmons Wilson epitomizes the spirit and commitment of a true Tennessean; through his ingenuity, dedication, and hard work, he has distinguished himself as a leader in the hotel industry; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this legislative body to honor and commend Mr. Wilson for his remarkable accomplishments in business and his generosity to the citizens of this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Kemmons Wilson, recognize his significant contributions to the hospitality industry, applaud his extraordinary philanthropy, commend his steadfast commitment to his family and community, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.